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Wilson edges Cox in mayoral race

By Gary Bradley, Gerald Laws
and Della Fichtel
Missourian staff writers

Sixth Ward Councilman Clyde Wilson won a close race for mayor of Columbia Tuesday, defeating opponent Harold E. Cox, 4,890 to 4,398. Cox carried the First, Second and Third wards, but Wilson cleaned up in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth wards for an overall majority of more than 52 percent of the vote.

Wilson, 52, awaited the results with about 100 supporters in a party at the Hawthorne Apartments. He said he was not discouraged when early returns from the First and Second wards showed him trailing Cox by about 120 votes.

"We'll do better south of Broadway," he said at the time.

Soon the tension broke, and Wilson's supporters began to feel confident when their candidate took a 41-vote lead with 17 of 25 precincts reporting.

Although reporters rushed to his side at about 9:30 p.m. with news that Boone County Clerk Chris Kelly had named him the winner, Wilson waited until his supporters jumped from their seats with a cheer before he claimed victory.

"I thought it would be close, but I didn't think it would be this close," he said. "But it doesn't matter as long as you win."

Wilson said he overcame Cox's funding advantage through name recognition and a good campaign organization. Cox raised almost twice as much money as Wilson.

Meanwhile, at Cox's Holiday Inn-West headquarters, a five-man Dixieland band swung into some upbeat tunes, but few danced when word came at 9:40 p.m. that Wilson had captured the mayor's race.

Shortly after the final vote count was announced, the 71-year-old Cox appeared for the first time, smiling and accepting condolences. He stepped to the microphone and delivered his concession speech.

"I don't feel so good, but I'm here. I know we ran a clean race. I never said one bad word about my opponent, and you know he did bad-mouth me a time or two."

But Cox acknowledged that the whole race was "about as clean as you could want." Looking to the future, he seemed to sense some limited victory.

"I hope it woke some people up, and I hope the new mayor will think a little bit about how he'd be spending his (the city's) money."

Cox, a conservative, focused his campaign on reducing city taxes and utility bills.

Wilson has served on the City Council for eight years. Although he considers himself a liberal, he ran his campaign trying to convince the people that his liberalism should not be confused with anti-business sentiment.

Two of Wilson's major campaign priorities were downtown improvements and energy expansion. He wants rejuvenation of the downtown area, especially Flat Branch, and a

coal-fired power plant jointly owned by several municipalities.

One of the major issues splitting the two candidates was city spending. Cox said the city could slide into a financial crisis if spending were not cut back.

"The city is allowing expenditures to climb 12 percent annually while income rises by only 7 percent," Cox said in an earlier interview.

Wilson, on the other hand, said the financial situation of the city was not as bad as Cox said, and he placed city services above spending restraint.

The candidates also differed on the situation in downtown Columbia. Wilson is in favor of a park-like atmosphere in the downtown business area.

"It should be conducive to people staying downtown, and should compete with the proposed shopping mall," Wilson said.

Cox claimed that parking was the most pressing problem facing downtown businesses. He

proposed a multi-level parking garage at the corner of Eighth and Walnut streets.

As a city councilman, Wilson voted for the controversial expansion of West Broadway. He said earlier that, if elected mayor, he would not try to have the decision reversed.

Wilson is chairman of the University's anthropology department. He lives at 1610 Wilson Ave.

Cox is vice president of Mid-Missouri Savings and Loan. He lives at 802 Fairview Road.

A political unknown when he announced his candidacy in February, Cox waged a surprisingly strong campaign against Wilson. Cox collected nearly double the campaign contributions of Wilson. His campaign relied heavily on advertisements to sell the candidate. Wilson, on the other hand, refused to use campaign advertisements such as yard signs and campaign stickers, relying on his record as a councilman to convince the voters.

Wilson will be sworn in as mayor Monday, April 9.

The City Council

Mayor
Clyde Wilson

First Ward
Richard Knipp

Second Ward
Holme Hickman

Third Ward
Diane Farish

Fourth Ward
Jim Goodrich

Fifth Ward
Ed Vaughan

Sixth Ward
Lew Stoerker



Clyde Wilson



Knipp



Hickman



Farish



Goodrich



Vaughan



Stoerker

Council to have three new faces

A candidate who previously served on the City Council for 10 years was returned to office Tuesday. He will join two newcomers and three incumbents when the new council is sworn into office on April 9.

Richard Knipp, who served on the council from 1963-73 before he was defeated by Pat Barnes, was returned to office by First Ward voters. He defeated Mary Ratliff, 767-727. Barnes did not stand for re-election.

Knipp joins Lew Stoerker, who posted a 22-vote victory over Dan Viets in the Sixth Ward, and Holme Hickman, who beat James Williams 859-302 in the Second Ward, as the newcomers on the Council.

Diane Farish, the only incumbent who was challenged, defeated Larry Taylor, 780-633, in the Third Ward. Incumbents Jim Goodrich of the Fourth Ward and Ed Vaughan of the Fifth Ward both were unopposed.

Hickman was a double winner Tuesday. He became a grandfather for the third time when a son was born to Howard and Lisa Hickman.

The new Second Ward councilman is senior auditor at the University. He also serves as chairman of the Columbia Water and Light Advisory Board.

Hickman said he would like Williams to serve as his liaison with the low-income community, a job Williams immediately volunteered for. Hickman said he plans to seek invitations to meetings of as many neighborhood associations and church groups as he can find.

Stoerker, who was celebrating his narrow victory with about a dozen supporters at his home, was jubilant. Outside, the American flag was illuminated with a floodlight in honor of the occasion.

"See, that's the way I feel," he shouted to departing guests as he

pointed at the flag. "We even lit it up tonight."

Stoerker attributed his victory to the "national concern for unjustified government spending."

Less than a mile away in Viets' living room, the mood was more somber. Viets refused to attribute his loss to an inadequate campaign effort.

"We canvassed the whole ward and called a thousand people," Viets said. The timing of spring break at the University may have been a factor in the race, he said. "Not many (students) really knew about the election."

There were 266 fewer voters in the Sixth Ward Tuesday than in 1977 when Clyde Wilson ran unopposed.

There were 385 fewer voters in the First Ward, where Knipp edged Mrs. Ratliff, the first black woman to run for City Council. Both candidates attributed Knipp's victory to his greater name recognition.

"I expected an uphill battle," Mrs. Ratliff said, "and I feel good about the results."

She said she would keep in touch with Knipp and will seek a seat on the Columbia Planning and Zoning Commission. Knipp said she would be a good candidate.

Knipp differed sharply with Ratliff over the widening of West Broadway. Knipp said the widening was necessary for traffic flow and to help the downtown. "Shoppers will be driven away from the downtown area unless there is an easy way to get there," he said before the election.

Ms. Farish polled 55 percent of the vote to beat Taylor for a second term on the council. Ms. Farish got 780 votes to Taylor's 633.

Celebrating her victory with about two dozen supporters at her home, Ms. Farish said she is optimistic about being able to work with the new council and is relieved that Wilson won the mayor's race.



Clyde Wilson acknowledges his election as mayor at an impromptu press conference during a celebration Tuesday night at the Hawthorne Apartments recreation room.

Leadership coalition to direct new council, Pugh says

By Andy Maykuth
Missourian staff writer

Former Mayor Bob Pugh was apprehensive that the new City Council would have too many opposing thinkers, causing council business to stall. But Tuesday night's election results dispelled those thoughts.

"I was worried that there might have been some polarization . . . some people too far to the left or too far to the right," Pugh said. But now he thinks the new council, with three new members, has a "good core."

That nucleus, comprised of three returning council members and one newcomer, will direct the council's actions, Pugh said. He calls it the leadership coalition.

Mayor-elect Clyde Wilson will be the

"dominant thinker and leader," said Pugh, who was attending Wilson's victory party. Wilson, along with returning councilmen Ed Vaughan of the Fifth Ward, Jim Goodrich of the Fourth Ward and political neophyte Holme Hickman of the Second Ward "are going to pull the rest of the council," Pugh said.

Those men are by no means the same shade on the political spectrum. Wilson leans to the left. Goodrich leans to the right. Vaughan is unpredictable. And Hickman has no council experience by which to color him.

Outgoing Mayor Les Proctor also tags Hickman a leader, and predicts he will be "up front" making council decisions. But Proctor said it is a useless endeavor predicting permanent coalitions; the new council members will not be predictable voters.

Insight

The council will, however, function well with four holdovers from the previous council. Proctor said. The three new council members, as in past years, will be forced to learn quickly.

Pugh, who was mayor from 1975 to 1977, agreed the three new council members will have to ripen swiftly. Even former Councilman Richard Knipp, who won election to his old First Ward seat, will have to learn because his thinking is "dated," Pugh said.

If the campaign was any indication, Pugh said, the new council has a lot of studying to do. Though the issues were difficult to understand, "Nobody even tried to face up to them and give

them their best shot." The candidates were evasive, he said.

"I don't think they realize how big this electric utility issue is," Pugh said, adding the new council will have to face up to the responsibility of making a decision on Columbia's energy source.

Within the week, the Water and Light Advisory Board will contract with a consultant to determine Columbia's best power source for the future. The next council may have to decide to build a new power plant four times the size of the current plant, said Pugh, who is a member of that advisory board.

Most of the candidates said during the campaign they would withhold a decision on the utility until that study is complete. But Wilson, Vaughan and Hickman — all member's of

Pugh's leadership core — already favor the idea of a new electric power plant.

Still, the utility issue takes a backseat to a more pressing concern: the downtown, Pugh said. Within two months after being sworn in, the new council will have to study a commissioned study of a regional mall's impact on the vitality of downtown business.

Wilson believes the council should take an active role in the location of that mall, which he believes is inevitable. He and Vaughan said they would discourage a mall anywhere outside the central business district.

But three members of the new council — Knipp, Hickman and Sixth Ward winner Lew Stoerker — said the city should keep its hands off the location of the mall. The issue undoubtedly will inspire much debate.

In town today

4 p.m. "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Stephens College Warehouse Theater.

7 p.m. "Dianne Dixon: On Stage!" a musical, dancing and theatrical program, Stephens College Windsor Auditorium.

7 p.m. Koonsberry Puppet Theatre, Daniel Boone Regional Library.

Movie listings on Page 15A

Study calls Pill safe, disputes earlier report

NEW YORK (UPI) — The birth control pill does not raise the risk of heart attacks, strokes and other circulatory diseases among its users, two doctors reported Tuesday.

In presenting their evidence, the doctors challenged the validity of a British study that women taking the pill are four times as likely than non-users to die of cardiovascular — CVD — ailments.

The high levels of risk of CVD deaths among pill users, cited in the British study, "appear to be exaggerated," reported Dr. Christopher Tietze, senior consultant for The Population Council. Nine million women in the United

States and 60 million elsewhere use the pill.

Belsey's and Tietze's reports were published simultaneously in the new issues of "Family Planning Perspectives" and "International Family Planning Perspectives."

The separate reports from Tietze in New York and Dr. Mark M. Belsey of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, are based on an analysis of vital statistics from the period before and after adoption of the pill. They show a decline in cardiovascular deaths among women.

Tietze refuted what he called the British "allegation" by reporting that mor-

tality from cardiovascular disease among the nation's women aged 15-44 has been declining since 1950 — and that the decline since adoption of the pill has been steeper for women than for men.

The chief application of the finding, he reported, is that the pill actually is safer than believed for younger users, those under 30, who do not smoke.

He emphasized that females who smoke cigarettes still should not use the pill, as the two in tandem increase the cardiovascular disease likelihood.

Nothing in Belsey's analysis of cardiovascular disease mortality data from 21 countries or Tietze's for the

U.S. alone comes close to matching findings of Britain's Royal College of General Practitioner's Oral Contraceptive Study published in the journal "Lancet" in 1977.

Tietze said after that report the word around the world was that women on the pill ran a risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, at least four times greater than non-users.

He said many younger women in the nation switched to other birth control methods.

"It seems evident that vital statistics data do not confirm the risks of CVD mortality that oral contraceptives are said to pose," Belsey said.

Inside today

Power plant bubble gone

The hydrogen bubble in a nuclear reactor at the Three Mile Island Power Plant near Harrisburg, Pa., finally was eliminated Tuesday, but civil defense officials remained ready to implement an evacuation if necessary. See Page 2A.